

a way that advances the cause of democracy in Cuba.

Third, I have ordered that Radio Marti expand its reach. All the people of Cuba must be able to learn the truth about the regime in Havana—the isolation it has earned for itself through its contempt for basic human rights and international law.

Fourth, I am ordering that additional restrictions be put on travel in the United States by Cuban officials who reside here, and that visits by Cuban officials to our country be further limited.

Finally, all charter air travel from the United States to Cuba will be suspended indefinitely.

These deliberate actions are the right ones at this time. They respond to Havana in a way that serves our goals of accelerating the arrival of democracy in Cuba. But I am not ruling out any further steps in the future, should they be required.

Saturday's attack was an appalling reminder of the nature of the Cuban regime: repressive, violent, scornful of international law. In our time, democracy has swept the globe, from the Philippines exactly 10 years ago, to Central and Eastern Europe, to South Africa, to Haiti, to all but one nation in our hemisphere. I will do everything in my power to see that this historic tide reaches the shores of Cuba. And let me close by extending on behalf of our family and our country our deepest condolences to those in the families of those who lost their lives.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Proclamation 6866—American Red Cross Month, 1996

February 26, 1996

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Since its founding in 1881 by Clara Barton, the American Red Cross has brought hope and healing to citizens and communities across the country. Today, some 1.4 million trained volunteers work to fulfill the Red Cross' mission by providing relief to disaster

victims; by ensuring that our Nation has an adequate and safe blood supply; by training millions of Americans in essential lifesaving and safety techniques; and by assisting members of our Armed Forces, their families, and our distinguished veterans.

This past year, the American Red Cross has carried on its extraordinary legacy across the country and around the world. When a bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, the Red Cross was there within minutes to assist those whose loved ones were killed in the tragic blast. After a series of record-breaking storms and hurricanes ruined houses and displaced people, the Red Cross served more than a million meals and helped victims to begin rebuilding their lives. And today, as OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR works to secure the peace in Bosnia, the Red Cross is facilitating emergency communications between our troops and their families at home.

The Red Cross has earned our Nation's deepest respect and appreciation for its important lifesaving and life-rebuilding work and for its countless daily efforts to promote health and safety. This month and throughout the year, let us take time to recognize this vital organization and do all we can to further its goals of preventing, preparing for, and responding to emergencies.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America and Honorary Chairman of the American Red Cross, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 1996, as American Red Cross Month. I urge all the people of the United States to support Red Cross chapters nationwide by volunteering and participating in Red Cross blood drives.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 27, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 28.

**Statement on Tax Provisions for
American Troops in Bosnia**
February 26, 1996

Today, in recognition of the sacrifices members of the U.S. Armed Forces are making in and around Bosnia, I am asking Congress to extend to them a series of special tax rules.

Historically, these provisions—which include extending the time to file returns and certain tax relief for those serving under hostile conditions—have been restricted to individuals deployed in “combat zones.” However, the men and women of today’s military confront hardships and risks in non-combat missions like the one we have undertaken in Bosnia. I believe the law should be extended to cover them. I look forward to working with Congress to enact these changes as quickly as possible.

**Remarks Welcoming the World
Series Champion Atlanta Braves**
February 26, 1996

The President. Thank you very much. Senator Nunn, Congressman Lewis, Congressman Bishop, Terry McGuirk, Harvey Schiller, Bill Bartholomay, Stan Kasten, John Schuerholz, and to Bobby Cox and the coaches, the staff, and of course, the Atlanta Braves: Let me welcome you all to the White House. We are delighted to have you here.

Secretary Riley is relocating from South Carolina to Georgia as a result of the outcome of the World Series. *[Laughter]* We’re glad to see you here.

This is a happy day for all of us. Three years ago, shortly after I became President, I had occasion to meet the Canadian Prime Minister when he hosted a meeting in Vancouver between President Yeltsin and me. And he wanted to have all this high-flowing policy discussion, and I said, “Now, before anything else, I want to tell you that my number one objective in our relations with Canada is to win the World Series back.” *[Laughter]* And I want to thank the Atlanta Braves

for helping my foreign policy with Canada to succeed.

It was a great season, and it was a magnificent World Series victory. Since 1990 this team has been the winningest team in baseball, with three National League pennants and four division titles and an absolutely extraordinary level of performance, which for every baseball fan in America has been a thrilling thing to watch. Your victory is very well-deserved, not only because you have been there before, but throughout the season you were dogged by doubts and second-guessing. I can identify with that. *[Laughter]* You proved your critics wrong, and you achieved baseball’s highest goal by overcoming adversity and criticism.

Casey Stengel once said, good pitching beats good hitting and vice versa. *[Laughter]* Well, the Braves proved that last year. You had great hitting, great fielding, and great pitching. Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux have won every Cy Young Award for the past 5 years. You may have an antitrust suit on your hands, even with baseball’s exemption. *[Laughter]*

We were all thrilled by Dave Justice’s play and his solo home run in the final game, which put the Braves on top. And we were—I think all of us who grew up around baseball were literally stunned—I think “stunned” is the only word—by the success of your entire pitching staff. We may never see a performance like that again in my lifetime, and I want to compliment all of them, especially since Senator Nunn told me on the way in they were all good golfers as well. *[Laughter]*

I think the Braves have shown us the best side of professional sports: perseverance and hard work and commitment, and a commitment that has endured over seasons. There really does seem to be a spirit of teamwork that has worked for this team. At a time when so many people wonder whether the team spirit and the ties to community still characterize professional athletics, the Braves have demonstrated beyond doubt that in Atlanta and with the Braves that is still the truth, and that it has been richly rewarded by consistent performance year in and year out and, finally, by the World Series victory.

For all of that I say on behalf of our entire country, congratulations. Welcome to the